

## 10.2 Community Education and Outreach

- The purpose of the community education program is to 1) educate the public of the dangers of wildfire in the area, 2) urge residents to take responsibility in reducing the risk of wildfire and create defensible space around their residence, and 3) increase awareness of the natural role of low-intensity fire in woodland or grassland ecosystems and the necessity of prescribed burns or occasionally allowing woodlands or grasslands to burn.
- This public education and outreach should be supported with Federal funds, but should be spearheaded by the local Fire Districts with help from the BLM and Forest Service. The program must start in the spring to remind people to prepare their properties for the upcoming fire season and continue until fall as residents will vary during the summer as various members of trusts arrive. This is likely going to be a problem as most of the homes are only occupied during the weekends or family vacation time. The risk of wildfire will increase almost daily as the grasslands begin to cure and overstory plants reduce growth. Without an outreach program in which the seasonal residents as well as yearlong residents are contacted, little will change within the subdivisions.

## 11.0 Wildfire Mitigation Strategy and Implementation

The wildfire mitigation action items provide direction on specific activities that organizations and residents in Bear Lake County can undertake to reduce risk and prevent loss from wildfire events. Each action item is followed by ideas for implementation which can be used by local entities to pursue strategies for implementation. For the following action items, the recommended lead organization(s) is in bold font. Each of these items will be subject to funding availability.

Ideas for implementation:

-Initiate a fuels reduction such as controlled burning in high risk regions at the interface of the Forest Service Boundary and the Bear Lake West subdivisions

Coordinating Organizations:	Bear Lake County Fire District Bureau of Land Management Forest Service
Timeline:	Immediately
Plan Goals Addressed:	Protect life and Property, partnerships and implementation
Cost Estimate:	500 acres treated @ \$600/acre=\$300,000

### **11.1 Improve Bear Lake County fire fighting equipment, communications and training.**

-Bear Lake County Fire Department to review and prioritize needs, assess abilities. Coordinate assessments with Rural Fire Protection Assistance Programs, Federal and State.

Coordinating Organizations:	Bear Lake County Fire District
Timeline:	2004/ Annually thereafter
Plan Goals Addressed:	Protect life and Property, Partnerships and Implementation, Emergency Services
Cost Estimate:	Four-wheel-drive fire engine under \$70,000 Three quick response units 3500 gallon water tender less than \$50,000 Installation of foam units 2@ \$3,000 for each engine Construction of 10,000 gallon water storage tank for Bear Lake Ranchettes area 1@ \$25,000. Acquisition of GIS software for dispatch \$3,000

### **11.2 Promote Firewise Education and Activities, coordinate activities county wide.**

Ideas for implementation:

-Enlist community/development participation in firewise workshops and programs. Schedule educational events at schools, county fair and communities prior to and during fire season. Use County-wide coordinated cooperative effort with homeowners, County Fire Fighters, Federal and State agencies for adoption and participation in firewise community activities.

Cooperating Organizations:	Home Owners Associations USDA-Forest Service Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management
Timeline:	Bear Lake County Fire Department Annually by July or August
Plan Goals Addressed:	Public Awareness, Partnerships and Implementation, Natural Systems
Cost Estimate:	In-Kind Donations of time, labor and materials

### **11.3 Implement Hazardous Fuels Reduction Programs in Identified Developments and Communities on County-Wide Scale.**

Ideas for implementation:

- Communities and subdivisions that have hazardous fuels and are at high risk will be reviewed, totaled and grant submissions submitted on a county-wide basis. Prioritization, administration, direction and implementation will be accomplished by the County. Fuels treatments would include, but not limited to: creating defensible space, hazard tree removal, thinning, brush removal, tree limb removal, insect damaged tree removal, noxious weed removal and prescribed burning by Land Agencies.
- Identify County or Community areas for slash/brush disposal, chipping and burning.
- Communities, subdivisions and homeowner associations provide fuel treatment proposals for areas within developments, coordinate development of these proposals with adjacent landowners and land management agencies for possible cost savings. Access for equipment (chippers etc.) may need to be assessed and coordinated with multiple land owners.
- Utilize cost estimates from similar projects conducted in other counties or lands in Idaho.

Coordinating Organizations:

Bear Lake County  
Local Communities  
Homeowners' Associations  
Idaho Department of Lands

Timeline:

5 years

Plan Goals Addressed:

Life, Property, Public Awareness,  
Partnerships and Implementation, Natural  
Systems

Cost Estimate:

County wide-\$240,000 equipment,  
personnel and disposal or chipping-\$2,000  
per day=120 project days with \$240,000,  
combined or consecutive project will realize  
a cost savings. Administration cost incurred  
by County should be included in cost  
estimates.

#### **11.4 Establish Bear Lake County Wildfire/Natural Disaster Committee.**

Ideas for implementation:

Convene new committee with the purpose of coordinating plan implementation, updates, accomplishments, public participation, information sharing and to promote prevention activities.

Coordinating Organizations:	Bear Lake County Emergency Committee Bear Lake County Commissioners Idaho Department of Lands USDA-Forest Service BLM Homeowners Associations Bear Lake County Fire Department
Timeline:	1 year
Plan Goals Addressed:	Public Awareness, Partnerships and Implementation, Natural Systems
Cost Estimate:	Development of county-wide emergency evacuation plan. Develop memorandums of understanding with fire agencies defining roles and involvement. No hard dollar costs.

#### **11.5 Access**

Enhance ingress/egress of existing subdivisions through expansion of existing road system. Improve Mountain Way to County Standards and direct future development between Bear Lake West and Loveland Lane to incorporate north/south roads connections in design.

Coordinating Organizations	Bear Lake County Commissioners Bear Lake County Road and Bridge Bear Lake Regional Commission
Timeline:	5 years
Plan Goals Addressed:	Public Safety, Partnerships and Implementation
Cost Estimate	\$500,000